



# Advocate

OFFICE OF CRIME VICTIMS ADVOCACY  
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Serving as a voice within state government for crime victims and their families

## Domestic Violence Housing First

*Eliminating housing as a reason to stay in an abusive relationship*



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HOME. Think for a moment what this word means to you. Does it conjure up feelings or emotions? Or smells and memories? Is HOME a place where you feel safe? Where you have your own space as well as shared space with "family?" Is HOME a place you live or another place you connect to your history, culture, heritage, family? The concept of HOME is a part of our everyday life. Preparing and cooking food, eating, sleeping, bathing, relaxing, playing, working; tasks performed daily within our HOMES.

HOME may be more than a physical structure. It may have deep emotional meaning, with memories of playing and arguing, mowed lawns and a child's artwork hung on the refrigerator.

Imagine now, for a moment, no longer having a place to call HOME. Your HOME that is your anchor, your refuge, your private space to call your own. Imagine all your personal belongings left behind. Your baby stroller becomes your "car;" you pack what you might need for the day, having nowhere else to keep your things. Daily routines of showering, eating, and sleeping become your daily job once you are homeless. You move in to your backpack, and set out to find your temporary HOME.

Compound this situation with one more; fleeing an abusive relationship. Not only do all the above mentioned conditions apply, you now fear for your safety. You've taken with you all you can, and left behind what you can't take with you...

**"On any given night, more than 22,000 people experience homelessness in Washington State, and half are women and children."**<sup>1</sup>

If the idea of HOME represents security and safety for most people; it is the opposite of homeless.

According to *Building Change: End Homelessness Together*, the following facts offer a snapshot of Washington's homeless epidemic.

- ◆ Unemployment is up 68.67% (above national average of 60%)
- ◆ Housing cost burden on poor households up 5.5 %

<sup>1</sup> Our Mission is to End Homelessness ~ Washington State Coalition for the Homeless.  
<http://endhomelessnesswa.org/about>

- ◆ Average income of working poor is down 2%
- ◆ Housing foreclosures are up 35% (above national average of 21%)
- ◆ Percentage of uninsured persons is up 4%

The Washington State Coalition for the Homeless ([www.endhomelessnesswa.org](http://www.endhomelessnesswa.org)) identified just some of the causes of homelessness in Washington State:

- ◆ **Poverty:** Hundreds of thousands of households simply do not earn enough to afford housing. Although Washington has the highest minimum wage in the country, it is still not enough for families to meet their basic living requirements.
- ◆ **Fleeing Domestic Violence:** A significant number of families experiencing homelessness are single parents fleeing abuse with their children.
- ◆ **Mental Illness:** people experiencing debilitating, untreated mental illness cannot maintain employment. Without employment, they can't maintain housing.
- ◆ **Alcohol & Substance Abuse:** Addiction is powerful. The inability to pay for treatment, and the lack of a place to call home, make recovery very difficult.
- ◆ **Criminal Background:** Most former prisoners are anxious to start over once released from prison. However, employers willing to employ them are scarce, and landlords who will rent with them almost non-existent.
- ◆ **Aging Out of Foster Care:** Each year, hundreds of youth age out of the foster care system. Many of them end up homeless because they lack the support system to help them live independently.

Given the importance we place on HOME, what is being done in our communities to give hope to the homeless? In 2005, the Washington State legislature passed the [Homelessness Housing and Assistance Act](#) which requires every county to develop a plan to end homelessness. County Plans are assembled using a continuum of housing options:

- ◆ **Homelessness Prevention:** In the form of rental assistance, first and last month's rent, credit repair, moving expenses, etc.
- ◆ **Emergency Shelter:** Up to 90 days.
- ◆ **Transitional Housing:** Up to 24 months of subsidized housing and supportive service like counseling, child care, employment training, budgeting and asset building.
- ◆ **Permanent Supportive Housing:** Ongoing subsidized housing with supportive services.
- ◆ **Subsidized or Public Housing:** Housing that is permanently affordable to people earning 0-80% of the area median income.
- ◆ **Homebuyer Assistance Programs:** Down payment assistance and flexible loan products aimed at helping low income households purchase a home.

One such continuum of care for housing model being piloted here in Washington State, which is shifting the focus for homeless families fleeing domestic violence, from temporary shelter first and foremost, to a model that places greater emphasis on immediate, longer-term stable housing. Once a family is stably housed, other key support services are introduced, driven by the client, and coordinated among participating community organizations.

The Washington Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WSCADV) announced in September, expansion of its program to help prevent homelessness for survivors of domestic violence by working with nine additional ser-

vice providers. The aim of the project is the elimination of housing as a reason to stay in an abusive relationship. Domestic Violence Housing First focuses on helping survivors of abuse retain or access safe permanent housing quickly, often bypassing emergency shelter.

Program participants include:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ New Hope Domestic Violence &amp; Sexual Assault Services</li> <li>◆ Kalispel Tribe of Indians</li> <li>◆ Spokane Tribe of Indians</li> <li>◆ Healthy Families of Clallam County</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Lummi Victims of Crime</li> <li>◆ Salvation Army Domestic Violence Program</li> <li>◆ International District Housing Alliance</li> <li>◆ Forks Abuse Program</li> <li>◆ Crisis Support Network</li> </ul>

“Domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness for women and children,” said Nan Stoops, executive director of WSCADV. “Shelters meet an important short-term need in communities across our state. Domestic Violence Housing First is providing another, equally important option. We are seeing that the flexible approach gives survivors the ability to establish a home and the freedom to choose how best to rebuild their lives.”

Washington’s Domestic Violence Housing First model provides women and children with tailored services based on their unique needs, including such supports as career training, job-related expenses, child care, transportation subsidies, necessities for children, and temporary rental assistance.

Flexibility and a survivor-centered plan are essential aspects to the Domestic Violence Housing First project. Flexibility gives survivors the capacity to establish a home and the freedom to choose how best to rebuild their lives. The flexibility also gives domestic violence advocates the ability to address the emerging safety needs of survivors through *four key service components*. These components are instrumental in WSCADV’s Domestic Violence Housing First model <sup>2</sup>:

- ◆ **Tailored Services, Mobile Advocacy**
- ◆ **Practical, Temporary Financial Assistance**
- ◆ **Housing Search Support**
- ◆ **Landlord and Housing Authority Relationships**

Coordinated, client centered services, made possible with flexible funding, are essential concepts con-

tained with these four key service components. But this model isn’t without its challenges as well. As advocates, it’s great to have flexible funding available to support families to find stable housing, but the lack of affordable housing makes it difficult. Rental assistance is possible, but many communities in Washington have a surplus of unaffordable housing available.

Bev Emery, Managing Director of OCVA had this to report, “I was very pleased to be invited to the last day of the symposium and thought the information was fascinating. I look forward to hearing how the new projects are progressing and how the DV world responds to these concepts.”

The Housing First model is about to be tested to the fullest. All the most recent revenue forecasts for Washington in the coming months, paint a very bleak and dire short-term economic future. The Double-Dip Recession is sure to impact the flow of funds to be used flexibly, the availability of affordable housing, while increasing the number of families needing these services. Now more than ever are we, as advocates and community members, going to need to leverage and coordinate the ever dwindling resources available to the victims and families we serve. It’s difficult times like these that stretch us to be the most creative and to be as efficient as we can. The Housing First model for domestic violence victims is one step towards long-term stability for families. Continue to follow WSCADV, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and other Housing First projects to see the effects and outcomes of this project.

<sup>2</sup> “Domestic Violence Housing First.” WSCADV Domestic Violence Housing First Program Overview.  
<http://www.wscadv.org/projects.cfm?ald=1BFEF8E9-C29B-57E0-877E65883ECE51FE>

# Vice President Town Hall Meeting

As part of Vice President Biden's initiative to raise awareness about dating violence and sexual assault among young people, the Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and Housing and Urban Development is hosting a town hall meeting focusing on the role of men in reducing dating violence and sexual assault on their campuses and in their communities. This event, being held during the last week of October, will bring young men, government officials, domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions, community leaders and other public figures together to participate in a conversation about how men can become more engaged in stopping violence against women.

The meeting will be in a panel format. WCSAP will be a member of the panel of experts from our federal region (region 10) which includes Washington, Oregon, Alaska and Idaho. This is a unique opportunity to discuss sexual violence with federal officials and the community at large.

**October 25, 2011**

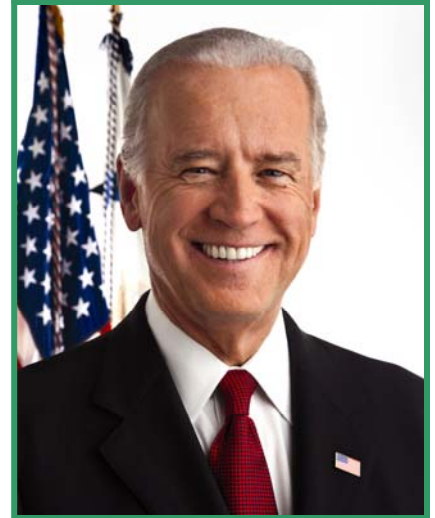
**Jackson Federal Building**

**915 2nd Avenue**

**North Auditorium, 4th floor**

**Seattle, WA**

**REGISTER NOW**



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## Human Trafficking Hearing

Tuesday, October 18 the Senate Labor, Commerce, and Consumer Protection Committee spent 2 ½ hours of their hearing on the topic of Human Trafficking. Early leaders such as (former Representative) Velma Veloria, Emma Catague, and Dr. Sutapa Basu (UW Women's Center) were present and testified. State agencies, including OCVA, reported on progress made on specific legislative bills that passed in the last two sessions. The Mayor of Seattle, Deputy Prosecutor for King County, and Seattle Police Captain also testified about their experiences and perspectives. Several advocates, representing Shared Hope, WCSAP, WA Labor Council, Tronie Foundation and others testified as well. Perhaps the most important message is that all forms of human trafficking are horrific. Approaches to and services for victims of labor trafficking may be different than those for victims of sex trafficking. The way to respond, prevent, prosecute offenders, and assist victims is primarily based on communication, collaboration, and coordination from all of us who play a part.

This topic was just added to the House General Gov-

ernment Committee hearing, which was held October 19. "Discussion of potential consolidation of criminal justice programs." It is item 7, with public comment as agenda item 8. In notes sent to the Department, programs listed are all of the OCVA state funded programs, plus Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) and Community Mobilization. Bev will be attending the hearing and will send an update in her November bulletin.

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## Congratulations to the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence!

The Sheila Wellstone Institute announced that the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WSCADV) is the recipient of the 2011 Sheila Wellstone Institute Outstanding Organization award. WSCADV will receive this prestigious award next week at the Sheila Wellstone Domestic Violence Awareness Event on October 5th, 2011 in Washington, D.C.

One of the goals of the Sheila Wellstone Institute is to acknowledge individuals, elected officials, and



organizations that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to safe and healthy homes and communities. It is named for the late Sheila Wellstone, wife of Senator Paul Wellstone, and longtime champion, organizer, and advocate for ending domestic violence.

Cyndi Cook, Executive Director of the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women and member of the Sheila Wellstone Institute Steering Committee, shares why WSCADV was such a clear choice to receive this award. "Sheila Wellstone was an advocate, organizer, and national champion in the effort to end domestic violence in our communities. At every point, she listened to women and responded to what really mattered in their lives. The work of the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence embodies that same grounding in women's day-to-day experience, paired with the vision, passion and skill to really make a difference for women and families."

The October 5<sup>th</sup> event will also honor Dr. Oliver Williams, a professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Minnesota in St. Paul and Senator Patrick Leahy. "I cannot express how humbled and honored we are to receive this award and to be in the company of the other recipients," said Nan Stoops, Executive Director of WSCADV. "We have always tried to enact the Wellstones' vision. This is a tremendous honor."

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## Institute On Medicine (IOM) Report "Clinical Preventive Services for Women: Closing the Gaps"

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In a landmark recommendation, the nation's leading panel of scientists agreed that every woman should have access to screening and counseling for domestic and intimate partner violence within her health coverage, and without co-pays. Leaders from Futures Without Violence are calling this one of the biggest advances for women's health in a generation and clearly it is **THE** biggest health policy advancement related to domestic violence. Guidelines based on the IOM recommendations will be issued by Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Sebelius, based on her August 1 announcement of acceptance of the IOM recommendations. Other IOM

recommendations included contraception, including emergency contraception.

News outlets report that under the Affordable Care Act, insurance plans will be required to cover the services recommended by HHS. To read more about this focus on clinical preventive services, check out the Institute On Medicine's website at [www.iom.edu](http://www.iom.edu).

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## PAO Establishes Nationally Accredited Child Advocacy Center

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The King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO) was among the first offices in the nation to develop a specialized sexual assault unit more than 30 years ago. While the PAO has long operated with the partnership of a multidisciplinary network of child advocates, therapists, social service providers, and law enforcement, they have just recently received national accreditation from the [National Children's Alliance](http://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org) for establishing the new Child Justice Center (CJC) of King County, a multidisciplinary team response center to effectively and efficiently respond collaboratively to allegations of child physical and sexual abuse while maintaining a child-focused approach.

The National Children's Alliance is dedicated to helping local communities respond to allegations of child abuse. It supports a multidisciplinary approach to supporting child victims of abuse,



and is the accrediting body for the 700 CJsCs throughout the nation. Accreditation is the highest level of membership within the National Children's Alliance and denotes excellence in providing services and support to child victims and their families. The PAO's accreditation for the King County CJC was based on its compliance with 10 national standards that reflect evidence-based practices regarding investigation, prosecution, and treatment provision in child abuse cases. Accreditation not only reflects an effective approach to responding to child abuse cases, it also helps ensure a consistent approach to these cases by all CJsCs throughout the nation.

# ECONOMIC & REVENUE FORECAST

## Gov. Gregoire calls November special session

For Immediate Release: September 22, 2011

OLYMPIA – Gov. Chris Gregoire today announced that she will call legislators in for a special session, beginning Nov. 28, 2011. Her decision comes one week after Dr. Arun Raha, the state's economist, lowered the state's revenue forecast for the 2011–13 biennium by \$1.4 billion.

"Congressional gridlock, the European debt crisis and high unemployment continue to take their toll on consumer confidence and our state's economy," Gregoire said. "Once again, we are facing a budget shortfall and once again I'm calling the Legislature back into special session to address the state's budget. My only option is across-the-board cuts, and that option is unacceptable. Solving this budget crisis will require the Legislature to act."

Raha is expecting another negative revenue forecast Nov. 17. Gregoire plans to tackle both negative revenue forecasts in one special session and hopes to finalize a budget with healthy reserves before Christmas. More than one month ago, Gregoire asked state agencies to detail how additional 5 to 10 percent cuts would affect their abilities to serve Washingtonians. She expects agencies to begin delivering those packages today.

If the Legislature approves a budget before the end of special session, Gregoire plans to spend the regular session focusing on policy bills to support job creation and economic growth.

"Let's get this budget done right in one swoop well before Christmas and then turn our focus to supporting jobs and growing our economy," Gregoire said.

Since the national recession began, the state has made nearly \$10 billion in cuts. Gregoire has warned that additional reductions will continue to hurt public health, safety and education programs.

### Forecast of GF-S Revenues: 2011-13

**Baseline:** \$30.311 billion; \$1,413.0 million lower than the previous forecast.

**Baseline B\*:** \$30.295 billion; \$16 million lower than the previous forecast.

**Optimistic:** \$2,247 million more than the baseline forecast.

**Pessimistic:** \$2,006 million less than the baseline forecast.

Please see our full report for more information. You can access this report at:

<http://www.erfc.wa.gov/forecast/documents/rev20110915color.pdf>

\*Baseline B assumes 2.7% real GDP growth in 2013, instead of 3.2% as in the Blue Chip Consensus.

Here is a brief synopsis of the state agency proposals ( <i>remember, this is only STATE general fund money</i> ).			
Program	Agency	SFY 2012	SFY 2013
Child Advocacy Centers	DSHS	Eliminate	Eliminate
Children Who Witness Domestic Violence and Marginalized Community	DSHS	Eliminate state funds	Eliminate state funds
Crime Victim Service Centers	OCVA	-10%*	-10%
Domestic Violence Legal Advocacy	OCVA	-10%	-10%
Domestic Violence Shelter	DSHS	-25%	-50%**
Sexual Assault	OCVA	-10%	-10%
Victim Witness Assistance	OCVA	-10%	-10%
*Remember the 10% is of the whole fiscal year amount. Depending on how long it takes to make this decision, you may experience it as a higher percentage of the remaining dollars in your grant.			

## ADVOCACY TRAININGS



### Working Together for Justice: Washington State's 8th Annual Vulnerable Adult Abuse Conference

**WCCVA**  
Washington Coalition of Crime Victim Advocates

Wednesday October 26, 2011 All Day  
Burien, WA

**Register Now!**

Conference fees are \$80 for two days and \$55 for one day.

For more information please contact Shelley Fraley at 206-296-9010 or by email at [Shelley.Fraley@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Shelley.Fraley@kingcounty.gov).

## A Partnership for Crime Scene Clean-up

Karla Salp, Executive Director of the Washington Coalition of Crime Victim Advocates (WCCVA) announced that they have established a partnership with Bio Management Northwest to provide pro bono and discounted crime scene cleanup services throughout Washington State. This new program is called the Crime Scene Cleanup Assistance Program (CSCAP).

If you know someone who is a candidate for this

program, please refer them to your local crime victim advocacy program. The local crime victim advocate will then refer the victim to WCCVA if they believe they are a candidate. (The victim will need to agree to have their info given to WCCVA and Bio Management Northwest.) WCCVA and Bio Management Northwest will work with the victim to determine if they qualify for the program and, if so, at what level (pro bono, discounted, etc.) The advocate may be involved in assisting with this process if the victim desires.

There are no hard and fast rules about who qualifies for the program financially. Each person's situation will be looked at individually. However, in an effort not to overburden this private company that has generously offered this service, it is asked that you use prudence when recommending the program. Individuals who do not have a need for financial assistance may still wish to contact Bio Management Northwest for their services. If an individual does not have financial need but wants to contact Bio Management Northwest for services, they may do so directly at 1-877-524-6411 or by visiting [www.biomanagementnw.com](http://www.biomanagementnw.com). Individuals who wish to apply for the program must apply through a crime victim advocate and WCCVA.

WCCVA will also be developing a webpage and making a press release soon and will be printing brochures as well for you to have on hand. For more information or question, please visit [www.wccva.org](http://www.wccva.org), email [admin@wccva.org](mailto:admin@wccva.org), or call 360-456-3858.

#### The CSCAP will:

- **Provide pro bono or reduced rate crime scene cleanup services to crime victims who do not have insurance or cannot otherwise afford to pay for crime scene cleanup services;**
- **Provide deductible waivers for crime victims who have insurance but who cannot afford all or part of the deductible.**

**The service is available for cleaning up virtually any type of crime scene from vandalism to cleaning up after a homicide.**

- **In order to be eligible for the CSCAP, persons must:**
- **Be victim or co-victim/survivor of crime.**
- **Work with a recognized crime victim advocacy program. (Victim/Witness Unit, Crime Victim Service Center, etc.)**
- **Demonstrate financial inability to pay for crime scene cleanup services or a deductible in all or in part.**

# OCVA Program Updates

## Staff Changes in OCVA

After seven years with the Violence Against Women (VAW) programs, Chris Fenno is moving over to the Victims of Crime (VOC) programs. Chris leaves great work and contributions to the VAW programs, especially in the development of the GTEA projects to assist immigrant women and children. VOC is excited to have Chris join them and is looking forward to her contributions and skills to enhance areas of vision, mission, strategy, and long-range planning.

Another OCVA staff member that has been with us for seven years with the Violence Against Women (VAW), policy coordination, and leader in Victims of Crime (VOC) programs, Grace Call, has an exciting opportunity at the federal level. Grace has accepted a fellowship with the Office of Victims of Crime, to study, visit, learn, and make recommendations re-

garding the administration of VOCA programs, compensation, and assistance. This is a one-year fellowship opportunity, so Grace will be taking a break from OCVA. While we will miss her terribly, we are excited

## We Got the Grants to Encourage Arrests (GTEA) Grant!!

We are very excited to receive this competitive grant again for another two years. We don't have any budget information yet, so there is much work ahead of us as we move towards implementation. This is a competitive grant administered by the Office of Violence Against Women, within the U.S. Department of Justice. Pearl (Gipson-Collier) has been in contact with the partners named in the application and will soon begin talking with them about the project.



## New Recovery Help Line

As of July 1, Crisis Clinic's [Washington Recovery Help Line](#) is offering **24-Hour support for people dealing with substance abuse, problem gambling and mental health issues, and providing referrals to treatment and support services.** This new statewide help line is operated by Crisis Clinic and funded by the Department of Social and Health Services' Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery. The Crisis Line is supervised by state qualified Mental Health Professionals to ensure a professional response.

## Help for Teens

Many teens in Washington State are faced with substance abuse, gambling and/or mental health issues. We know that teens are more likely to confide in someone their own age. So, Crisis Clinic offers [Teen Link](#), a statewide teen-answered help

line available every evening between 6-10pm. Trained teen volunteers are able to talk to others about a wide range of issues including drugs, alcohol and gambling and make referrals to service providers.

**Teens can call  
866-TEENLINK (833-6546)  
or chat online with a teen volunteer  
at [www.866TEENLINK.org](http://www.866TEENLINK.org).**

## Search for Community Resources Online

Did you know our Washington State database of services is free and open to the public? Bookmark [Community Resources Online](#) to search for services such as treatment providers, support groups, government services and other community services.



## It's Domestic Violence Awareness Month!

Share info about your events on our [Facebook](#) page and check out our [website](#) for the current statistics from the Fatality Review.

Special Legislative Session begins Nov. 28, 2011

"We need to be prepared for significant reduction proposals to crime victim services," Bev Emery tells staff and programs.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

The [United Nations'](#) (UN) International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women raises public awareness of violence against women in all countries around the world and at all levels of society. It is observed each year on November 25.

It is an occasion for governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to raise public awareness of violence against women.

## Court Rule Advocacy Success, CcR 4.11 Rejected!

The rejection of CcR 4.11 means success in preventing mandated recordings of witnesses! Thanks to everyone for writing in and to our systems partners who also provided feedback to the rules committee - together we did it!

~WCSAP

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*The Office of Crime Victims Advocacy serves as a voice within state government for the needs of crime victims in Washington State.*

The OCVAAdvocate is a quarterly publication of this office. Unless otherwise noted, articles were written by OCVA staff. Topic ideas for future issues may be sent to [ocva@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:ocva@commerce.wa.gov).



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**Department of Commerce**  
Innovation is in our nature.